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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone) **CONFIDENTIAL** DATE DISTR 21 July 1948
SUBJECT 57 Guards Rifle Division and Other Units in Thuringian Manoeuvres NO. OF PAGES 2
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1. large scale maneuvers took place in the area between the roads Langensalz-Langula (J08-H33) on the east, Milhausen-Langula-Mihla (H39-H38-H37) on the north, Reichsstrasse 34-Langensalz-Misenach on the south, and close to the western border. Maneuvres were east to west over the Mainich, repulsing an imaginary western attacker. Fighter aircraft from Erfurt participated. (Cf. paragraph 8 following)

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2. 57 Guards Rifle Division (which now resembles a light infantry division) took part with an armored division in the northern area. Some of 57 Guards Rifle Division's units were in camp along the western edge of the Mainich, north of the Grossengottern-Bischofrode road (H98-H37). Some of its engineers were located between Hessa and Mihla (H38-H37). Some of its artillery regiments, a motorized infantry regiment, and twenty SU-152's were encamped between Lauterbach (H37) and Ihlefeld (H88).

3. An armored troop camp, with more than forty JS-3 and a number of medium tanks, was observed between the Grossengottern-Bischofrode and Ihlefeld-Carula (H97) roads. does not relate this camp to 57 Guards Rifle Division. South of Hessewinkel (H97) was an armored rifle battalion with forty-eight armored personnel carriers.

4. Between 18 and 20 May, Ohrdruf (J15) held approximately 6,000 men in barracks and camps, a mixture, apparently, of infantry, artillery and armored troops (red tabs with black piping, black tabs with red piping predominated).. Dodge, Studebaker and Soviet Ford trucks

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5. There were approximately 250 trucks, 50 supply vehicles, sixty 47 mm AT guns, thirty-six 57 mm AA guns, and some 30 mm mortars. Most of the men wore new uniforms.

6. The wooded area south of the Ohrdruf-Arnstadt road (J15-J25) contained fifty JS-2 tanks with 152 mm guns and approximately 150 medium tanks. The latter were equipped with 89 mm gun in cylindrical mount with double muzzle brake; flat command turret; high idler wheel; five large bogie wheels without track support rollers.

7. South of the Hambuchshof-Gessel road (J15-J14), a motorized artillery unit with twelve 76.2 mm guns was seen moving towards Ohrdruf. Six 122 mm guns were parked in the woods.

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7. An assault gun unit is believed to be stationed in the Lamschensdorf wooded area north of the Ohrdruf-Arnstadt road. This was first seen moving in the direction of Wechmar (J15) on 19 May with forty SU-152's, ten T-34 tanks with flame-thrower barrels, plus mounted infantry.
8. An 18 May simulated attack on the Hartwald, south of Wechmar, involved 60 medium and 20 heavy tanks with mounted infantry; 4 rifle battalions on 62 trucks; twenty-four SU-152's; 12 infantry guns; 4 long barreled 85-100 mm AT guns; fifteen 57 mm AT guns; and several 47 mm AT guns. Among the infantrymen on the SU-152's were several 30 mm mortar teams. Six fighters from the direction of Erfurt, believed to be YAK 1's, engaged in low level attacks.
- 25X1A 9. A Soviet camp is being built in the woods south of the Bad Kösen-Kuckulew road (J78). It is to hold 3,000 men.

Airfields

- 25X1A 10. Bindersleben airfield (J26) held eighteen fighters between 12 and 21 May. On the latter date they returned to K8then (D95).
11. At Zerbst (D98) on 25 May, source observed a jet aircraft in flight. This is described as a high-wing monoplane with fuselage below the wing unit, unusually long cockpit, pilot's seat in front of the wing unit. Workers at the field state that there are two turbines under the fuselage. The same untested informants claim that there are fifteen such planes at the field, though they were not seen by source. There were, however, approximately 100 YAK-1's on hand. The asphalt road, Zerbst-Belzig (D98-Z30), serves as a runway; it has been closed to traffic and enlarged to about 25 meters. The Zerbst field compound is being fenced in and 600 German laborers are constructing concrete shelters. Former German concrete bunkers and the control tower still exist and are being repaired. Four hangars are being used.
- 25X1A 12. The Dessau-Alten field (E17-E06) was occupied by sixty fighters on 10 May, strengthened by 61 additional fighters which arrived on 26 May. The planes are parked in the open while three damaged hangars and the concrete runways are being repaired. Beacon lights are working.

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